

Region 5 Forest Health Protection Cooperative Survey

Aerial Detection Survey – Update, Sept 6th, 2012

Background: Annual aerial detection surveys for tree injury and mortality have been conducted in California since 1994. This is an update of survey status for the 2012 survey season.

Objective: Detect and map tree mortality and damage in California / USFS Region 5 and the Toiyabe National Forest in Region 4.

Surveyors: G. Durham, B. Oblinger, J. Moore

Dates: Sept 4th to 6th, 2012.

Methodology: Recently dead or injured trees (trees still retaining dead foliage) were mapped visually by surveyors using digital aerial sketch-mapping systems flying in a light fixed-wing aircraft approximately 1,000 feet above ground level. Surveyors record the number and species of affected trees and type of damage (mortality, defoliation, branch flagging) at each mapped location.

Details:

- The Toiyabe National Forest in and near California was flown cooperatively with Nevada Division of Forestry and USFS Region 4 and 5. The Inyo National Forest and high elevation areas of the Sierra N.F. and Sequoia-Kings National Park was as well. Figure 1.
- Pinyon needle scale and pinyon sawfly was observed affecting large areas of pinyon on mostly BLM land in Nevada. Only a few small areas of pinyon sawfly were observed on the National Forests.
- Locally intense mountain pine beetle (Figure 2) and scattered Jeffrey pine beetle was observed on the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests.
- Small groups of dead limber pine were mapped in the Inyo Mountains (Figure 3).
- Frost damage to aspen was mapped in several areas on both National Forests, and a large area of blowdown was mapped near the Devil's Postpile National Monument.
- Satin moth defoliation of aspen was seen on the east side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Figure 1. Flown area and mapped mortality

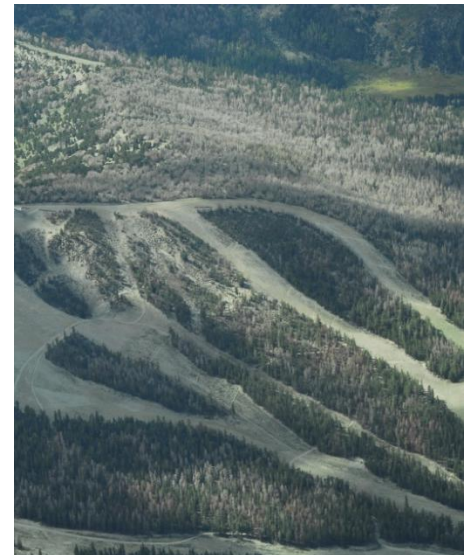
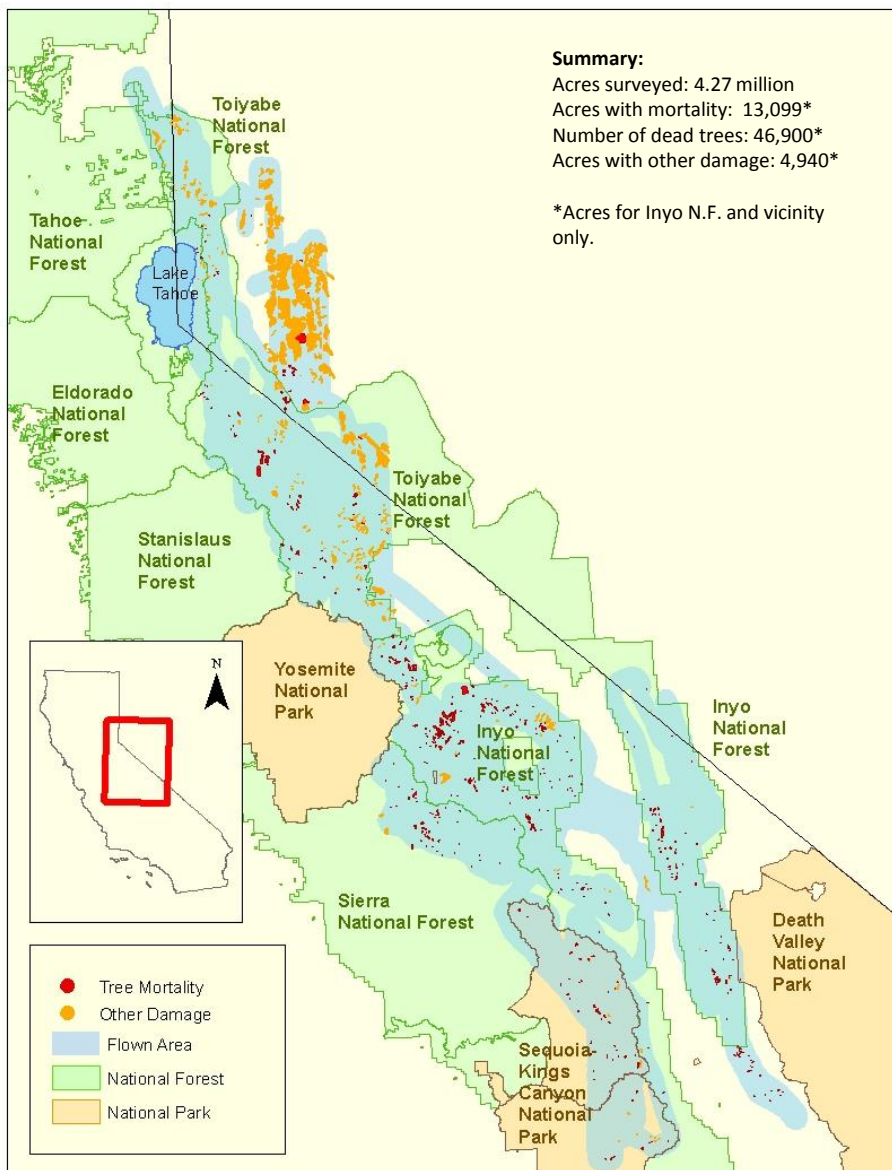


Figure 2. Standing gray trees on June Mountain, Inyo National Forest.



Figure 3. Older and recent limber pine mortality in the Inyo Mountains.

Direct questions pertaining to this report to Zachary Heath (email: zheath@fs.fed.us phone: 530-759-1751). Report Date October 2nd, 2012.